

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 056731

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: LONDON PRIVATE BANK AGREEMENT- FRIEDMAN TRIP

- -- FRIEDMAN TRIP

1. ON REQUEST PRESIDENT MOBUTU CITIBANK VPS FRIEDMAN AND MESERVE SCHEDULED TO DEPART NEW YORK MARCH 16 FOR ARRIVAL KINSHASA MARCH 19. HOWEVER CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ZAIRE (SHABA) RAISE SERIOUS DOUBTS IN FRIEDMAN'S MIND AS TO ADVISABILITY OF TIMING OF THIS TRIP. HIS CONCERN IS WITH TACTICAL QUESTIONS OF SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF LONDON (FRIEDMAN) AGREEMENT NOT RPT NOT WITH CONTINUED VIABILITY OF AGREEMENT DESPITE KATANGEN ATTACK.

2. FRIEDMAN REQUESTS ASSISTANCE AMBASSADOR IN RELAYING FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU (HE SAYS SAMBWA APPEARS UNWILLING RAISE SUBJECT WITH MOBUTU, AND CITIBANK REP ANSELL DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS):

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(A) PURPOSE OF FRIEDMAN'S VISIT IS TO INSPECT ZAIRIAN SITUATION FIRST-HAND SO THAT HE MAY INFORM OTHER MEMBERS OF SYNDICATE OF ZAIRIAN PROGRESS IN MEETING CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENT. CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SHABA WILL INCLINE SYNDICATE MEMBERS TO DOUBT FUTURE APPLICABILITY OF ANY OBSERVATIONS MADE THIS WEEK.

(B) THEREFORE, FROM A "MARKETING" POINT OF VIEW, FRIEDMAN'S STRONG PROFESSIONAL RECOMMENDATION IS THAT HIS VISIT BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER EASTER. FRIEDMAN WISHES TO POINT OUT THAT FINANCIAL PRESS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF PROPOSED SYNDICATE BELIEVE IN FACT THAT HIS INSPECTION TRIP IS SCHEDULED FOR AFTER EASTER, SO NO EXPLANATION NEEDED OR POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT POSSIBLE IF TRIP POSTPONED.

(C) IF DESPITE THIS PROFESSIONAL ADVICE, PRESIDENT MOBUTU INSISTS THAT HE COME NOW, FRIEDMAN AND MESERVE WILL DEPART NEW YORK AS PLANNED MARCH 16 AT 1000 A.M. FOR KINSHASA, VIA BRUSSELS.

3. COMMENT: FRIEDMAN'S POINTS SEEM WELL TAKEN. MESERVE EMPHASIZED IN STRONGEST TERMS TO DEPTOFF THAT FRIEDMAN'S CONCERN IS PURELY TACTICAL. COMPLIANCE WITH FRIEDMAN'S REQUEST IS LEFT TO AMBASSADOR'S DISCRETION BUT REPLY OR AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS REQUESTED BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS MARCH 15 AT LATEST.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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